

HOUSE RESOLUTION 135

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of former Trousdale County Executive Pat Fergusson of Hartsville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Pat Fergusson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fergusson was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fergusson served with acumen and alacrity for fourteen years as Trousdale County Executive, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and community alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, a long-time resident of Trousdale County, Pat Fergusson was born on August 14, 1940, the son of J.W. and Ruby Fergusson; and

WHEREAS, after living in Nashville for ten years, he and his wife, Nancy, chose to return to Trousdale County in 1970, to raise their three young sons on the family farm; and

WHEREAS, elected County Executive in 1988, Pat Fergusson did not bring to the office a political background but came instead as a thoughtful, thorough businessman who always strove to conduct his political duties with a posture of openness and transparency toward the public; he earned a positive reputation as a man who resisted impulsive decisions and always made informed and beneficial decisions for the betterment of Trousdale County; and

WHEREAS, during his dynamic tenure as County Executive, Mr. Fergusson led his administration in achieving several monumental goals, which served to enrich the County and solidify citizens' trust in his ability to work on their behalf; and

WHEREAS, he is best known for providing guidance to the people of Hartsville and Trousdale County as they voted on, and subsequently carried out, the decision to "go Metro,"

consolidating the Hartsville City Government and the Trousdale County Government into one metropolitan governing body; and

WHEREAS, other impressive accomplishments of his tenure that Mr. Fergusson felt were to the betterment of Trousdale County included initiating the Highway 141 project that is currently in progress; instituting the E-911 emergency communications project; the institution of solid waste collection and disposal for Hartsville and Trousdale County; and the funding, building, and expansion of several new facilities, including a new middle school, the county jail, a health department building, and a new high school; and

WHEREAS, a humble man of great faculty, Pat Fergusson refused to take sole credit for any of these achievements, bestowing particular credit upon his former assistant Debbie Jenkins as well as a host of others who were instrumental in the implementation and completion of the various projects; and

WHEREAS, after the end of his fourteen years as Trousdale County Executive, Mr. Fergusson remained active in the happenings of Trousdale County, continuing to lend his wisdom and experience to the Hartsville and Trousdale County Water Board, the Trousdale Medical Center Hospital Board, and the Board of Directors for Pathfinders for the remainder of his life; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades and awards, he was the honored recipient of the 2008 Leon Shoulders Award from Sumner Regional Health Systems; and

WHEREAS, an innovative and compassionate community leader, Pat Fergusson was a popular figure in Trousdale County, admired for his ability to approach an issue from every angle before coming to a decisive and intelligent conclusion; and

WHEREAS, widely known for his sense of humor, he often played the part of the town drunk in Hartsville Follies; and

WHEREAS, those who knew Mr. Fergusson personally describe him as a man who had the ability to communicate well with the public, helping to unite rather than divide people, and using his business mind to make decisions with the sincere desire to benefit the people of Trousdale County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fergusson was also deeply devoted to his family, was a great father, and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Pat Fergusson enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Nancy Fergusson, and was the proud father of three sons and their wives, John Pat and Teresa Fergusson, Bill and Tonya Fergusson, and Joe and Leanne Fergusson; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his five grandchildren and three step-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Pat Fergusson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Pat Fergusson, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Pat Fergusson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.